

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 PM-04 ACDA-10 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07

FEAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /104 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO ERDA WASHDC PRIORITY

ERDA GERMANTOWN MD PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1432

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 09989

ERDA FOR MCDONOUGH

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LMFBR PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 065697; (B) STATE 059863; (C) PARIS

8797

1. SUMMARY. THE BEST AVAILABLE ESTIMATE IS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE SPENT THROUGH 1976 ABOUT 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS ON THEIR LMFBR PROGRAM AND EXPECT TO SPEND 2 BILLION DOLLARS MORE BEFORE THEIR LMFBR IS FULLY COMMERCIALIZED.

2. FRENCH CEA LMFBR R&D EXPENDITURES STARTED IN ABOUT 1960 AT THE LEVEL OF SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR, INCREASED APPROXIMATELY LINEARLY TO ABOUT 125 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR IN 1969, WITH AN EXPENDITURE OF ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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600 MILLION DOLLARS DURING THIS TEN-YEAR PERIOD. IN 1970, 1971 AND 1972 EXPENDITURES WERE AT THE LEVEL OF ABOUT 130 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR FOR AN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE OF ABOUT 400 MILLION DOLLARS DURING THIS PERIOD. SINCE 1973 THE LMFBR PROGRAM EXPENDITURES HAVE LEVELED OFF AT ABOUT 100 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR. HENCE, CEA EXPENDITURES THROUGH

1976 ARE ABOUT 1,400 MILLION DOLLARS. SINCE 1967-68, EDF HAS SPENT IN ADDITION OF THE ORDER OF 100 MILLION DOLLARS FOR A FRENCH TOTAL THROUGH 1976 OF ABOUT 1,500 MILLION DOLLARS.

3. IN CUMULATIVE FRANCS, THE CEA COST EXPENDITURES WERE 3,500 MILLION FRANCS THROUGH 1974, INCLUDING THE 700 MILLION FRANCS COST OF THE PHENIX PLANT (ALTHOUGH NOTE THAT THE COST OF PHENIX IN 1974 FRANCS IS 1,000 MILLION FRANCS). CUMULATIVE CEA FRANCS EXPENDITURES THROUGH 1976 ARE 4,500 MILLION FRANCS WHICH CEA ESTIMATES TO BE ABOUT 6,500-7,000 FRANCS IN FRANCS OF 1977.

4. CEA STAFF ESTIMATES FUTURE LMFBR PLANT SUPPORT R&D EXPENSES TO BE ABOUT 100 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR UNTIL PHENIX START-UP, I.E. FOR ABOUT SEVEN YEARS, 1977 THROUGH 1983. BEYOND THAT THE UNCERTAINTY IS GREATER, AND THEY ESTIMATE THAT THE SUPPORT WOULD GO DOWN TO ABOUT 50 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR, WOULD LAST TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, AND WOULD DEPEND ON SPECIFIC PLANS AND DEVELOPMENTS. A LOGICAL PROJECTION FOR THE TOTAL OF THIS ITEM APPEARS TO BE ABOUT 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS OR ABOUT TWICE THE AMOUNT SPENT SO FAR.

5. ADDITIONAL CEA LMFBR EXPENDITURES WILL INVOLVE SUPER PHENIX, WHICH WILL BE FUNDED IN PART COMMERCIALY, BUT ALSO IN PART FROM PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS DEMONSTRATION R&D FUNDS. CEA STAFF ESTIMATE UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE FRENCH SHARE OF THESE R&D COSTS WOULD BE ABOUT 1.3 BILLION FRANCS OR ABOUT 260 MILLION DOLLARS.

6. CEA LMFBR EXPENDITURES IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE DO NOT INCLUDE ALL FUNDING ON LMFBR FUEL CYCLE R&D. IT MAY BE ESTIMATED THAT IN ADDITION ABOUT 100 MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN SPENT ON LMFBR REPROCESSING R&D AND THAT IN THE FUTURE ABOUT 200 MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE SPENT BEFORE LMFBR FUEL REPROCESSING IS FULLY COMMERCIALIZED.
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Disposition Event:
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